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BOOK REVIEW

ANTE-NATAL CARE. By W. F. T. Haultain, M.B., F.R.C.S.E., and E. Chalmers Fahmy, F.R.C.S.E. With Foreword by R. W. Johnstone, Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women, University of Edinburgh. Second Edition. Pp. 127. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone, 1931. Price 5s.

IN the second edition of their admirable text-book, Drs. Haultain and Fahmy have included a chapter on Post-Natal Care, on Maternity and Health Benefits.

The book is the product of wide experience, condensed and simplified for the busy practitioner. Reference is made to the Ascheim-Zondek test for early pregnancy, the University of Edinburgh having set up a station for this investigation.

The chapter on the Hygiene of Pregnancy is full of common sense; the advice that medical supervision should begin in its very early months, even in multiparæ, is not usually sufficiently stressed, having regard to the frequency of retroversion as a possible cause of early miscarriage. The authors make a point of that, and of the early treatment of the vomiting of pregnancy.

Examination of the pregnant woman is well described and indications for induction of labour in cases of slightly contracted pelvis are given.

The chapters on Albuminuria and on the Hæmorrhages of Pregnancy contain much valuable information.

The chapter on Venereal Diseases in Pregnancy has been amended, and much more intensive treatment advised for the pregnant syphilitic woman. Post-natal care deals with all the more common complications which occur in the first three weeks after delivery; but we would prefer to see the fact stressed that the patient suffering from gonorrhœa should be encouraged to attend her V.D. Clinic till she can be discharged fit; and that the syphilitic mother and baby should be referred back for further treatment. Without this very necessary active co-operation of the Maternity Unit with the V.D. Unit of the hospital much valuable work remains undone, and some cases of "Congenita Syphilis Tarda" will undoubtedly appear where the treatment of the pregnant mother has not been started in the earlier months. An authoritative statement that further treatment of the mother and child suffering from V.D. must be given *after* delivery, so that a satisfactory result is obtained, would have great weight in inducing the young practitioner to see that this treatment is carried out adequately.

This small book is a most valuable guide to any young doctor who wants to do his best in reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, and to keep his midwifery patients happy and well.

M. R.